

Agenda 6(e) The Human Rights situations of Indigenous Peoples in states and refrestriction for environmental reasons.

Paul O'Hanlon 25<sup>nd</sup> July 2003

United Farmers Association, Ireland

(Member of the Celtic Community of Ireland who have lived and farmed for 9000 years on their ancestors homeland)

Thank you Mr Chairman for this opportunity for making our organisation's views known. People before profits. All corporations should be made of a moral approach to investment which shouldn't impact either the environment or living conditions of indigenous peoples. As an indigenous person we are only the caretakers of the land for our time here on earth which we will pass on to the future generations. We look on the land as a part of ourselves spiritually not as a monetary value as real-estate. The present practice of large corporations take an advantage of the European common agricultural policy which insures 80% of all funds going to 20% of the large factory farmers with the average payment of 100'000 Euros. The remaining farming families have to make do with 20% of the funds going to 80% of the low income farming families. This policy of the last 30 years have the result in 100'000 farmer families leaving the land for larger cities resulting in depopulation of the countryside. And the food being dumped on the world market resulting in depressing and putting out a business of farmers of Africa and Asia because the food is sold in their countries below the cost of local production causing economic disaster for the local indigenous farming communities. This is funded by European export refund for all sales outside the EU. We call on a total rethink of the subsidies and the effect they have on the world market resulting in collapse of food-price in under-developed countries. Large corporations under promotion of GM-foods is by far the biggest threat in the coming decade for indigenous farming families because these companies are aiming to patent the seeds and also use chemicals and pesticides in the management of the GM-foods not taken into account the economic and health risks to the indigenous populations and wider community.

We also would like to make our concerns known on the draft constitution for Europe. There should be an article in the constitution protecting the rights of indigenous peoples guaranteeing our rights of land ownership, land prices, free markets and diversity of flora and fauna as a right for indigenous peoples of Europe (as it has done for the protection of large corporations and financial interests of Europe). People before profits. Thank you again for making our views known and I would like to wish everybody a very pleasant and safe travel home to there families.

Thank you again Mr Chairman for this opportunity.